

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FITZSIMMONDS, FAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, JA

SUBJECT: CITRUS FUNGICIDES - OPP, CHERRIES AND SO2

REF: (A) STATE 18880, (1976) (B) TOFAS 760 (1976) (C) TOFAS 22

1. SUMMARY. AS FOLLOWUP TO DEC 27 FORMAL SUBMISSION OF OPP STUDIES TO MIN HEALTH (MHW) BY IMPORTERS GROUP (APPLICANT) AND TO REMIND THEM OF IMPORTANCE THIS OUTSTANDING PROBLEM, AGATT MADE VISITS TO YOSHIOKA AND HORIKAWA OF MAF THIS WEEK. MAF STILL EVIDENCES FULL SUPPORT OF PRIOR COMMITMENT TO ASSIST IN SEEKING RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM AND SUGGESTED US SHOULD MAKE STRONG PUSH FOR FINAL DECISION ANYTIME AFTER LATE JANUARY WHEN CURRENT CRITICAL BUDGET PERIOD PASSED. SUGGEST YOU CONSULT CLOSELY WITH CITRUS INDUSTRY AND ESPECIALLY SUNKIST WHO ALSO VERY CLOSELY ATTUNED TO SITUATION HERE TO GAIN THEIR INPUT.

2. IN JAN 13 VISIT WITH D.G. HORIKAWA RE OPP, CHERRIES, CODLING MONTH, AND SO2 ON POTATOES AGATT ASKED WHEN OPP CASE (REF A) DATA WOULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE FSIC FOR ITS REVIEW. HORIKAWA CALLED D.G. MATSUURA OF ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION BUREAU, MHW TO GET LATEST

WHILE WE PRESENT. HORIKAWA TOLD US FOLLOWING PER REF PHONE CONVERSATION:

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A. TO GET ACTION STARTED, MHW MINISTER MUST MAKE PROPOSAL TO ONE OFHCOMMITTEES IN FSIC;

B. A ABOVE HAS NOT BEEN DONE BECAUSE OF "REMAINING ITEMS FOR STUDY" (THIS NOT CLARIFIED);

C. CURRENT INVOLVEMENT IN GOJ BUDGET PREPARATIONS PRECLUDES PAYING NECESSARY ATTENTION TO OPP DATA. (BUDGET WORK EXPECTED TO LAST UNTIL LATE JANUARY.);

D. HOWEVER, RECOGNIZE THAT SEASON IN WHICH NEED FOR OPP IS STRONGER (I.E. SPRING/SUMMER) IS APPROACHING.
COMMENT: NOT UNLIKELY THAT GOJ, EVEN WITH REPORT IN HAND, WILL ATTEMPT CONTINUE DELAY ACTION FOR "TECHNICAL REASONS." POLITICAL PERCEPTIONS SUCH AS EFFECT OF OPP DECISION ON GOVERNMENT PARTY IN JUNE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION WILL ITSELF BE INFLUENTIAL THOUGH THIS WILL NOT BE ADMITTED OFFICIALLY. THEREFORE SINGULARLY APPROPRIATE TO MAKE HIGH-LEVEL APPROACH IN NEAR FUTURE (PERHAPS WHEN MOST GOJ BUDGET PREPARATIONS COMPLETED END JAN.) TO REMIND GOJ OF CONTINUITY OF CONCERN BY USG OVER OPP AND DESIRE FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION NOW THAT WE BELIEVE ALL NECESSARY TECHNICAL DATA AVAILABLE TO MHW.

3. DISCUSSIONS RE OPP ALSO HELD WITH SUNKIST AND NIIMURA GROUP (IMPORTERS ASSN) REPS. THEY TOO CONVINCED ON NEED FOR A HIGH-LEVEL APPROACH SOON AND REQUESTED THIS BE DONE. IMPORTERS ASSN STATED IT HAS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVE IN MEETING WITH GOJ OFFICIALS AND SELECTED DIET MEMBERS RE SUBJECT.

4. CHERRIES (REF B). AGATT INDICATED THAT ALL NECESSARY DATA HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO MAF/PQ RE CODLING MOTH AND THAT WE EXPECT REQUEST FROM HIGH-LEVEL USDA OFFICIAL TO MAF/PQ TO BE TRANSMITTED IN NEAR FUTURE. HORIKAWA SAID THAT HE WORKING WITH HIS STAFF ON REVIEWING DATA AND DEVELOPING BASIS FOR DECISION. HOWEVER, CHERRY FRUIT FLY IS POINT OF CONCERN (SEE PARA 4 REF B) I.E. DATA ON FLY APPEARS INSUFFICIENT, ETC. HORIKAWA PLANNING
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CONTACT SCIENTISTS IN ADVANCE RE FLY DATA TO CHECK OUT ITS "CONVINCEABILITY". AFTER POINTING OUT THAT QUESTION IS ON CODLING MOTH, NOT ON CHERRY FRUIT FLY (WHICH IS NOT ON JAPAN'S PROHIBITED LIST), AGATT SAID THAT US PRODUCERS WILL LIKELY SEE FLY ISSUE AS A DELAY FACTOR ON GOJ'S PART TO POSTPONE BEYOND 1977 SEASON.

5. COMMENT RE CHERRIES. GIVEN LEAD TIME REQUIRED IN US FOR CHOOSING SITE FOR AND CONSTRUCTING FUMIGATION FACILITY, SETTING UP PROCEDURES IN COORDINATION WITH MAF/PQ, ETC., AND IN JAPAN FOR HEARING PREPS AND HEARING ITSELF, ETC., SEEMS THAT WE AT CROSSROADS AS TO WHETHER CHERRIES CAN BE SHIPPED THIS SEASON. IMPOSSIBLE TO JUDGE WHAT ROLE FRUIT FLY WOULD PLAY IN HEARING PROCESS. AT SAME TIME, CAN ASSUME THAT IN EVENT OF FAILURE OF HEARING (DUE TO FLY OR ANY OTHER REASON) WOULD BE MOST LIKELY THAT NEW HEARING (BASED ON NEW EVIDENCE) COULD NOT BE CALLED FOR SOME TIME. THEN TOO CANNOT NEGLECT POLITICAL FACTORS SUCH AS UPCOMING (LATE JUNE) UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS AND FACT THAT NEW MAF MINISTER SUZUKI IS FROM IWATE PREF IN WHICH CHERRY PRODUCTION

THROUGH SMALL HAS INCREASED RECENTLY. HOWEVER, HIS MAIN
CONSTITUENCY IS FISHING INDUSTRY. SEE REF C FOR SUGGESTED ACTION
IF AGREEABLE WITH CHERRY INDUSTRY.

6. RE SO2, INDICATED CONINUING INTEREST IN RAISING SO2 TOLERANCE
LEVELS AND SOLICITED MAF ASSISTANCE IS GAINING MHW APPROVAL.
HODGSON

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